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The New Wheat Insect.

find the subjoined letter in a late number *London Free Press*, under date of July . . . We have received several communications on the same subject, accompanied with drawings of the insect, from various parts of the country where it has been seen. In some places where the wheat *midge* has not yet made its appearance, the farmers have supposed that the new insect is that dreaded one. Thus however, it is almost unnecessary to say, is not the case. The new insect is very nearly resembling in appearance those found upon garden or green house trees and plants. We are inclined to think from the specimens sent us, that there may be more than one variety or specie of them, as they differ considerably in size and colour. They are however very nearly allied, if not of the same species. Some of the specimens on open ground, in the letter in which they were received have been of a bright scarlet or orange color. Others very minute in size, a few of them with wings, the majority apparently without, and some of them alive. On opening the same letter the following day, all the insects are found changed to a brown or green colour, many dead, a few still living. Other specimens received have been considerably larger in size, changing from brown to a light green in color, and apparently of a different form to the former kind. Some of the orange-coloured specimens with wings certainly resemble the per-

fect fly of the wheat midge a little in appearance at first sight, and this may have given rise to the impression that they were the same. The insects are, however, quite distinct. The aphid has appeared this year over very extended areas of the country. From what accounts have yet been given of it, it does not seem to cause any very great amount of injury to the wheat, although it must undoubtedly affect it to some extent:—

(To the Editor of the Free Press.)

DEAR SIR,—I had placed in my hands, by a gentleman in the market, an ear of wheat covered with insects very much resembling, at the first glance, the common "Aphis," found on the soft stems of roses and other garden flowers. My friend told me that the ear of wheat given to me was one out of a field taken without any special selection, every ear appearing to contain a great abundance of similar insects; the one I had contained about 100 insects, and many must have been shaken off in previous handling of the ear. Some of the insects possessed wings rather imperfectly developed, others had no wings, probably the not fully developed animal. On placing the insects under the microscope, they appeared to me to belong to the order "Hemiptera," or half-winged insects. The common tree bug is a fair example of the order. The insects had a largely developed "rostrum," which is the underlip of the insect, jointed, hollow, prolonged, and tapering to a point—in short, like the upper lip of the elephant called its trunk, but more horny and piercing at its point. Those insects which had not been disturbed were situated at the junction of the grain, with the ear stalk, and had their rostrums securely entered into the grain, which, in the specimen I had, was just formed, that is, the grain